

# Federal Communications Commission

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Before the  
Federal Communications Commission  
Washington, D.C. 20554

MM Docket No. 93-217

In the Matter of

Amendment of Section 73.202(b), RM-8286  
Table of Allotments.  
FM Broadcast Stations.  
(Grand Gorge, New York)

## NOTICE OF PROPOSED RULE MAKING

Adopted: July 13, 1993;

Released: July 30, 1993

Comment Date: September 20, 1993

Reply Comment Date: October 5, 1993

By the Chief, Allocations Branch:

1. The Commission has before it the petition for rule making filed by Sound of Life, Inc. ("petitioner"), requesting the allotment of Channel 287A to Grand Gorge, New York, as the community's first local service. Petitioner states that it will apply for the channel, if allotted.

2. Section 307(b) of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, mandates that the Commission fairly, equitably, and efficiently distribute frequencies " . . . among the several States and communities." The Commission has defined "communities" as geographically identifiable population groupings. Generally, if a community is incorporated or is listed in the U.S. Census, that is sufficient to demonstrate its status. Grand Gorge is not listed in the U.S. Census. According to the petitioner, Grand Gorge is located in the Catskill mountain region and has a population of 950 persons, according to the 1993 *Rand McNally Commercial Atlas and Marketing Guide*.<sup>1</sup> Petitioner also states that Grand Gorge has its own post office, fire department and sewage treatment plant. In addition, it contends that there is an animal hospital, hardware store and pharmacy which identify themselves with the community by name. Petitioner admits that Grand Gorge has been combined with the town of Roxbury, which is eight miles distant, for governance, but submits that this fact is not dispositive for allotment purposes. While petitioner has stated that there are local businesses, churches and a school, it has not specifically identified these entities with addresses or shown that they are intended to serve Grand Gorge, as opposed to other areas. This is a critical deficiency because we have, in the past, rejected claims of community status where a nexus has not been shown between the political, social and

commercial organizations and the community in question. See *Gretna, Marianna, Quincy and Tallahassee, Florida*, 6 FCC Rcd 633 (1991), and cases cited therein. Therefore, the petitioner should present the Commission with sufficient information to demonstrate that Grand Gorge has social, economic, cultural, or governmental indicia to qualify it as a "community" for allotment purposes. See, e.g., *Beaver Springs, Pennsylvania*, 4 FCC Rcd 5373 (1989), *Sargent, Nebraska*, 4 FCC Rcd 3933 (1989), *Bartow, Georgia, et al.*, 4 FCC Rcd 6876 (1989), *East Hemet, California, et al.*, 4 FCC Rcd 7895 (1989), and *Ellwood, California*, 50 Fed. Reg. 13031, published April 2, 1985.

3. We believe the public interest would be served by seeking further comment on petitioner's proposal because the allotment of Channel 287A could provide Grand Gorge with its first local service, if ultimately found to be a community for allotment purposes. Channel 287A can be allotted to Grand Gorge in compliance with the Commission's minimum distance separation requirements with a site restriction of 11.2 kilometers (6.9 miles) northeast to avoid a short-spacing to Station WYCY, Channel 287A, Hawley, Pennsylvania.<sup>2</sup> Canadian concurrence in the allotment is required since Grand Gorge is located within 320 kilometers (200 miles) of the U.S.-Canadian border.

4. Accordingly, we seek comments on the proposed amendment of the FM Table of Allotments, Section 73.202(b) of the Commission's Rules, for the community listed below, to read as follows:

City	Present	Channel No.
		Proposed
Grand Gorge, New York	--	287A

5. The Commission's authority to institute rule making proceedings, showings required, cut-off procedures, and filing requirements are contained in the attached Appendix and are incorporated by reference herein. In particular, we note that a showing of continuing interest is required by paragraph 2 of the Appendix before a channel will be allotted.

6. Interested parties may file comments on or before **September 20, 1993**, and reply comments on or before **October 5, 1993**, and are advised to read the Appendix for the proper procedures. Comments should be filed with the Secretary, Federal Communications Commission, Washington, D.C. 20554. Additionally, a copy of such comments should be served on the petitioner, or its counsel or consultant, as follows:

Russell C. Powell, Esq.  
Taylor Thiemann & Aitkin  
908 King Street, Suite 300  
Alexandria, Virginia 22314  
(Counsel to petitioner)

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<sup>1</sup> We recognize that Grand Gorge is listed in the 1993 Rand McNally Commercial Atlas and attributed with a population of 950 people. However, mere geographical location is not sufficient to establish "community" status. See, *Vinville, Mississippi*, 48 FR 5974 (1983), *Hannibal, Ohio*, 6 FCC Rcd 2144 (1991), and

*Columbia, California*, 56 FR 26357 (1991), 6 FCC Rcd 3292 (1991).

<sup>2</sup> The coordinates for Channel 287A at Grand Gorge are North Latitude 42-26-39 and West Longitude 74-24-54.

7. The Commission has determined that the relevant provisions of the Regulatory Flexibility Act of 1980 do not apply to rule making proceedings to amend the FM Table of Allotments, Section 73.202(b) of the Commission's Rules. *See Certification That Sections 603 and 604 of the Regulatory Flexibility Act Do Not Apply to Rule Making to Amend Sections 73.202(b), 73.504 and 73.606(b) of the Commission's Rules*, 46 FR 11549, February 9, 1981.

8. For further information concerning this proceeding, contact Leslie K. Shapiro, Mass Media Bureau, (202) 634-6530. For purposes of this restricted notice and comment rule making proceeding, members of the public are advised that no *ex parte* presentations are permitted from the time the Commission adopts a Notice of Proposed Rule Making until the proceeding has been decided and such decision is no longer subject to reconsideration by the Commission or review by any court. An *ex parte* presentation is not prohibited if specifically requested by the Commission or staff for the clarification or adduction of evidence or resolution of issues in the proceeding. However, any new written information elicited from such a request or a summary of any new oral information shall be served by the person making the presentation upon the other parties to the proceeding unless the Commission specifically waives this service requirement. Any comment which has not been served on the petitioner constitutes an *ex parte* presentation and shall not be considered in the proceeding. Any reply comment which has not been served on the person(s) who filed the comment, to which the reply is directed, constitutes an *ex parte* presentation and shall not be considered in the proceeding.

#### FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

Michael C. Ruger  
Chief, Allocations Branch  
Policy and Rules Division  
Mass Media Bureau

#### APPENDIX

1. Pursuant to authority found in Sections 4(i), 5(c)(1), 303(g) and (r) and 307(b) of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, and Sections 0.61 0.204(b) and 0.283 of the Commission's Rules, IT IS PROPOSED TO AMEND the FM Table of Allotments, Section 73.202(b) of the Commission's Rules and Regulations, as set forth in the *Notice of Proposed Rule Making* to which this Appendix is attached.

2. *Showings Required.* Comments are invited on the proposal(s) discussed in the *Notice of Proposed Rule Making* to which this Appendix is attached. Proponent(s) will be expected to answer whatever questions are presented in initial comments. The proponent of a proposed allotment is also expected to file comments even if it only resubmits or incorporates by reference its former pleadings. It should also restate its present intention to apply for the channel if it is allotted and, if authorized, to build a station promptly. Failure to file may lead to denial of the request.

3. *Cut-off Procedures.* The following procedures will govern the consideration of filings in this proceeding.

(a) Counterproposals advanced in this proceeding itself will be considered if advanced in initial comments, so that parties may comment on them in reply comments. They will not be considered if advanced in reply comments. (*See* Section 1.420(d) of the Commission's Rules.)

(b) With respect to petitions for rule making which conflict with the proposal(s) in this *Notice*, they will be considered as comments in the proceeding, and Public Notice to this effect will be given as long as they are filed before the date for filing initial comments herein. If they are filed later than that, they will not be considered in connection with the decision in this docket.

(c) The filing of a counterproposal may lead the Commission to allot a different channel than was requested for any of the communities involved.

4. *Comments and Reply Comments; Service.* Pursuant to applicable procedures set out in Sections 1.415 and 1.420 of the Commission's Rules and Regulations, interested parties may file comments and reply comments on or before the dates set forth in the *Notice of Proposed Rule Making* to which this Appendix is attached. All submissions by parties to this proceeding or by persons acting on behalf of such parties must be made in written comments, reply comments, or other appropriate pleadings. Comments shall be served on the petitioner by the person filing the comments. Reply comments shall be served on the person(s) who filed comments to which the reply is directed. Such comments and reply comments shall be accompanied by a certificate of service. (*See* Section 1.420(a), (b) and (c) of the Commission's Rules.) Comments should be filed with the Secretary, Federal Communications Commission, Washington, D.C. 20554.

5. *Number of Copies.* In accordance with the provisions of Section 1.420 of the Commission's Rules and Regulations, an original and four copies of all comments, reply comments, pleadings, briefs, or other documents shall be furnished the Commission.

6. *Public Inspection of Filings.* All filings made in this proceeding will be available for examination by interested parties during regular business hours in the Commission's Public Reference Room at its headquarters, 1919 M Street N.W., Washington, D.C.